

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 11, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 4, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response (Pipeline Spill), Ida, Michigan

On April 26, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster responded to a report of a release from a 12-inch gasoline pipeline in a rural area just outside of Ida, Michigan. Initial reports did not specify the size or extent of the release. Upon reaching the scene, OSC Jaster met with representatives from Buckeye Pipeline and their subcontractors, as well as with the local fire department. Representatives from another petroleum company had been inspecting their pipeline in the same area, and had noticed a gasoline odor and several small pools of petroleum sheen in a drainage ditch adjacent to a farm field outside of Ida. They contacted Buckeye, who responded immediately from both their Wayne, Michigan, office and an on-going remediation project nearby. Buckeye immediately excavated the suspect area and discovered a small pinhole leak in the pipeline. The leak was temporarily sealed with a clamp, and the section of impacted pipeline was eventually replaced. Buckeye's contractors used absorbent materials to recover sheen along several hundred feet of the drainage ditch. Buckeye will continue to address the excavated soil in the area, and will send both Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and U.S. EPA a final report within the next month. The report will detail the exact cause of the spill and the estimated quantity of product

released.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Emergency Response (Unknown Odor), Morrice, Michigan

On April 27, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster and the Weston Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor mobilized to a private residence in rural Shiawassee County, Michigan, in response to a request for assistance from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). MDCH had received a call earlier in the week from a resident who had been forced to evacuate their home due to an unknown odor that had made all of the home's occupants (including a 9-month-old infant) ill. In addition, the resident's otherwise healthy pet bird had collapsed and immediately died when the odors were at their worst. After arriving at the scene, OSC Jaster learned that the residents felt it may have been a carbon monoxide issue due to a wood burning stove that was still connected to their fuel oil furnace. On the day of the problem, heavy cross winds had been forcing air down through the wood stove chimney and into the fuel oil furnace. This back draft may have prevented the fuel oil furnace from properly venting outside of the home.

OSC Jaster and the START team conducted a wide variety of air monitoring inside the home, including monitoring for carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, explosive atmosphere, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, chlorine, and petroleum hydrocarbons. No readings were above background. The resident had disconnected the wood burning stove from the fuel oil furnace before U.S. EPA arrived. The Shiawassee County Health Department advised the resident to purchase a carbon monoxide detector for the home prior to moving back in. The resident refused an opportunity to have the bird examined for cause of death.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Remedial Action Started, South Point Plant Superfund Site, South Point, Ohio

On May 2, 2001, a pre-construction meeting was held at the South Point Plant Superfund site to initiate the remedial action. Remedial activities include excavation, onsite and off-site disposal, cap construction, and groundwater monitoring and containment. Mobilization efforts will start the week of May 7, 2001, with construction work to begin the week after.

Contact: Matthew Mankowski (312-886-1842)

Air Sparging System Being Evaluated, Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site, Columbia City, Indiana

In April 2001, the air sparging system at the Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site in Columbia City, Indiana, was turned back on after being inactive since November 2000. Vapor samples were collected while the air sparging system was off, and also after it became active again in April. The sample results will be used to evaluate whether the air sparge system should continue to be operated.

The Wayne Waste Oil Superfund Site (also known as Wayne Reclamation) is approximately 30 acres in size, and includes a municipal waste landfill, groundwater pump and treatment system, air sparging system, slurry wall, and soil vapor extraction system. The site is currently in operation and maintenance.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Exercise, Cheboygan, Michigan

On April 26, 2001, an oil spill response exercise, as required by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, was conducted in Cheboygan, Michigan. Personnel from the U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch and the Federal Facilities Section participated in various capacities. Personnel included Sam Borries, Ralph Dollhopf, Tim Drexler, and Chris Christenson. Sam Borries participated as the U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) in the Unified Command in support of the Federal OSC (FOSC), Captain Scott Gordon of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Office in Sault Ste Marie. During the exercise, representatives from the BP Amoco Corporation's Cheboygan Marine Terminal were assisted by response professionals from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Cheboygan County, and the City of Cheboygan Fire and Police Departments, in addition to those from U.S. EPA and the USCG. The response plans which were tested included the Northern Michigan Area Contingency Plan and the BP Amoco Facility Response Plan. The exercise focused on local response capabilities and included extensive equipment and personnel deployment along the Cheboygan River, during the first 10 hours after a simulated

major oil spill. USCG units and three commercial Oil Spill Recovery Organizations (OSROs) deployed equipment and practiced oil recovery operations in the Cheboygan River and Lake Huron during the drill.

Contacts: Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)
Sam Borries (312-353-2886)

Emergency Response Branch Response Section 1 Participation, Rouge River Water Festival, Dearborn, Michigan

On May 3, 2001, three members of the Emergency Response Branch's Response Section 1 participated in the 2001 Rouge River Water Festival at the University of Michigan's Dearborn campus. The 1-day annual educational event provides over 1,500 fifth grade students from 33 elementary schools an opportunity to learn more about environmental issues in the Rouge River watershed. Section Chief Jason El-Zein and On-Scene Coordinators Mark Durno and Michelle Jaster gave a series of 30-minute presentations to five different fifth grade classes from schools located in the Rouge River watershed. The presentation began with a short discussion of the Superfund program and the different types of hazardous waste. The presentation also included an overview of typical emergency response and time-critical removal actions that have occurred in and near the students' communities. A short discussion and video presentation highlighted the dangers of mercury spills in schools and homes. In addition, the students were given the opportunity to participate in hands-on demonstrations of emergency response air monitoring and personal protective equipment. Feedback from the teachers and students indicated that this year's annual presentation was well-received once again.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting, Belleville, Illinois

On May 2, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Barbi Lee made a presentation to the St. Clair County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The presentation consisted of a familiarization and overview of the Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Plan and the related mapping project. The Sub-Area Plan was finalized in March 2001. She was assisted in the presentation by Lieutenant (Lt.) Chris O'Neil of the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in St. Louis, Mr. Tom Powell of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and OSC Kevin Turner. Lt. O'Neil and Mr. Powell are both members of the sub-

area committee. This was one of seven such presentations being made by members of the sub-area committee during April and May 2001. These presentations will be given to the LEPCs for City of St. Louis and the six collar counties which comprise the sub-area. Three of these Counties are in Illinois and three are in Missouri.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-885-5296)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Compliments, Brownfields Efforts, Chicago, Illinois

The following was part of a note of appreciation from David Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator, to William Muno, Director, Superfund Division: I spoke to the National Brownfields Association on April 18 here in Chicago. In front of an audience of about 200 people a representative of Consumers Power in Jackson, Michigan, got up and gave a very strong compliment to Mike Gifford for the excellent support he gave in resolving some brownfields issues that made the difference in the company locating its new headquarters in the city on a brownfield rather than on a greenfield."

Contact: Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)

Letter of Appreciation, City Health Department, Norwood, Ohio

On April 23, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator Steve Renninger received a letter from the Norwood City Health Department thanking him for his assistance at their informational meeting regarding the Norwood Radiator Site.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
 Steve Luftig (OSWER)
 Larry Reed (OERR)
 Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
 Craig Beasley (OSWER)
 Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
 Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
 Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
 Division/Office Directors
 ORA State Coordinators

Regional Team Managers